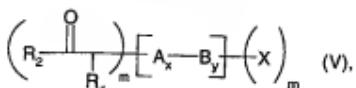


IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims to read as follows.

1. (currently amended): A polymer or block copolymer of formula:



wherein

R₁ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, cyano, phenyl or C₁-C₄alkylphenyl;

R₂ is the radical of an acylated, branched, trihydric alcohol, the radical of a fully or partially acylated, linear or branched, tetrahydric alcohol, the radical of a fully or partially acylated, linear, penta- or hexa-hydric alcohol, the radical of a fully or partially acylated, linear or cyclic C₄-C₆dialdose or C₄-C₆ketose or the radical of a fully or partially acylated disaccharide;

A and B are polymer blocks of ethylenically unsaturated monomer units selected from the group consisting of styrenes, acrolein, acrylic or methacrylic acid or salts thereof, acrylic or methacrylic acid anhydrides, acrylic or methacrylic acid C₁-C₄alkyl esters, acrylic or methacrylic acid mono- or di-C₁-C₄alkylamino-C₂-C₄alkyl esters, acrylic or methacrylic acid hydroxy-C₂-C₄alkyl esters, acrylic or methacrylic acid (C₁-C₄alkyl)silyloxy-C₂-C₄alkyl esters, acrylic or methacrylic acid (C₁-C₄alkyl)silyl-C₂-C₄alkyl esters, acrylic or methacrylic acid heterocyclic-C₂-C₄alkyl esters, acrylic or methacrylic acid esters containing poly-C₂-C₄alkylene glycol ester groups, acrylic or methacrylic acid esters containing poly-C₂-C₄alkylene glycol ester groups esterified by substituted C₁-C₄alkoxy groups, acrylic or methacrylic acid amides, acrylic or methacrylic acid mono- or di-C₁-C₄alkylamides, acrylic or methacrylic acid amino-C₂-C₄alkylamides and acrylonitrile.

x and y denote the number of monomer units in the blocks A and B, one value of x and y being zero and the other value being an integer greater than zero, or both values x and y being integers greater than zero;

X is chlorine, bromine or iodine; and

m denotes an integer from three to six.

2. A block copolymer (V) according to claim 1, wherein

R₁ is C₁-C₆alkyl or phenyl;

X is chlorine or bromine and

R₂ is the radical of an acylated, branched, trihydric alcohol, the radical of an acylated, linear or branched, tetrahydric alcohol or the radical of a fully or partially acylated, linear, penta- or hexahydric alcohol,

A-and-B-are-polymer-blocks-of-ethylenically-unsaturated-monomer-units;

x and y denote integers greater than zero and represent the number of monomer units in the blocks A and B; and

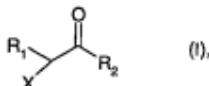
m is three or four.

3. (cancelled).

4. (previously presented): A polymer composition comprising a polymer or block copolymer (V) according to claim 1, wherein R₁, R₂, A, B, x, y and m are as defined in claim 1, and at least one additive customary in polymer compositions.

5. (cancelled).

6. (previously presented): A process for the preparation of a polymer or block copolymer (V), wherein R₁, R₂, A, B, X, x and m are as defined in claim 1, in which process ethylene-group-containing aliphatic monomers that form the basis of the polymer blocks A and B are subjected to a polymerisation reaction by atom transfer radical polymerisation (ATRP) in the presence of an α -halocarboxylic acid ester of formula:



as polymerisation initiator, wherein R₁, R₂ and X are as defined in claim 1, and in the presence of an oxidisable transition metal complex catalyst.

7. (cancelled).